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Pedro's letter to President Obama

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May 6, 2009

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

My name is Pedro Arturo Lopez Vega. I am the son of Consuelo Vega Nava, one of the workers that was caught in the May 12, 2008 Postville Raid at Agriprocessors, Inc. She was sentenced to five months in jail then deported to Mexico October 25th, 2008. She did not talk about me and my little sister because she was afraid that they would send us to jail with her. I don't want anybody to suffer the way I did because it is very painful when they take away the one person you can always trust and count on.

The raid has affected me and my family in many ways. My 9-year old sister Samantha would go into her room and "talk" to my mom while she was actually not there. My nephew who was 8 months at the time, would always crawl to the front door and wait for my mom and after she would not show up, he would start to cry. As for me, instead of my mom waking me up, giving me a kiss, and sending me to school, my older sister Juanita has do it. When I come back from school I don't receive the warm hug that my mom used to give me and when I go to sleep I miss her goodnight kiss and her blessing for the night.

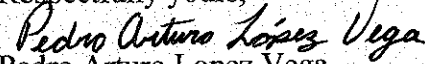
I don't wake up with the same desire to go to school as I used to but I get up, go to school, and do my homework because I promised my mom that I would get my education and try to be successful in life.

When we had mock elections in school I voted for you because I knew you were the change that this country and the immigrant population needs.

In school I read about a soldier in the Civil War who had to stand guard two nights in a row. On the second night he fell asleep and was sentenced to death for not doing his duty. Abraham Lincoln pardoned him and when the soldier offer to pay him with his savings Abraham Lincoln refused and told him to just do his duty.

Mr. President, I want to ask you to be like Abraham Lincoln and pardon my mother for three days so she can come to Postville on May 29 of 2009 and see my graduation from 8th grade and allow me to show her that I kept my promise.

I can not repay you with money but I assure you that I will do my best and always help people in need.

Respectfully yours,

Pedro Arturo Lopez Vega
332 North Reynolds Street
Postville, Iowa 52162